

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SEPT. 23 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. VANCE-GROMYKO MEETING IN WASHINGTON WAS MAJOR STORY IN AMERICAN PRESS FRIDAY, WITH EMPHASIS ON SALT DISCUSSIONS. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID VANCE "HEADED INTO POTENTIAL DISPUTE YESTERDAY WHEN HE TOLD CONGRESS U.S. WILL HONOR NUCLEAR ARMS CEILINGS IN AMERICAN-SOVIET PACT, WHICH EXPIRES OCT. 3, IF SOVIET UNION 'EXERCISES SIMILAR RESTRAINT.'" MARDER SAID "THERE ARE MONTHS OF NEGOTIATION AHEAD, AT BEST, BEFORE NEW PACT CAN BE REACHED TO REPLACE EXPIRING NUCLEAR ACCORD, WHICH IS AT CORE OF U.S.-SOVIET DETENTE POLICY, REDUCTION OF TENSION. CONGRESSIONAL CLASH NOW LOOMS OVER CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ATTEMPT TO AVOID LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON CONTINUING EXISTING ARMS CEILINGS WHILE NEGOTIATIONS GO ON FOR NEW AGREEMENT." POST CORRESPONDENT
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PONDENT REPORTED THAT STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID SOVIET UNION IS EXPECTED TO ISSUE, ALONG WITH U.S., PARALLEL DECLARATION ON HONORING CURRENT NUCLEAR ARMS CEILINGS WHEN ACCORD RUNS OUT IN ELEVEN DAYS." HE SAID VANCE, IN LETTER TO SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SPARKMAN SAID "OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO" ON ARMS LEVELS IN WHAT IS KNOWN AS SALT ONE AGREEMENT "WHILE SALT TWO NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING COMPLETED AND TO COMPLETE WORK ON SALT TWO

AGREEMENT WITHIN NEAR FUTURE." VANCE SAID ADMINISTRATION

"CONSIDERED AND REJECTED POSSIBILITY OF JOINT U.S.-SOVIET STATEMENT WHICH MIGHT HAVE RAISED QUESTION OF WHETHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WAS INTENDED." MARDER NOTED THAT WHAT VANCE DID NOT ADD WAS THAT ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO AVOID "NOISY CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE IN MIDST OF NEGOTIATIONS" VANCE, HE SAID, TOLD REPORTERS, "I DON'T BELIEVE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL IS NECESSARY." MARDER SAID THAT CONTENTION WILL BE CHALLENGED BY SENATE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARMS CONTROL HEADED BY SENATOR JACKSON. JACKSON AIDE SAID ADMINISTRATION'S ACTION WILL BE ATTACKED AS "CIRCUMVENTION, OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT ACT, WHICH MAKES ANY ARMS LIMITATION SUBJECT TO TREATY OR CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION. THIS DISPUTE, MARDER SAID, HAS BEEN BREWING FOR MONTHS AND IT IS UNCLEAR HOW MUCH OPPOSITION JACKSON AND OTHER CRITICS OF U.S.-SOVIET DETENTE POLICY CAN RALLY AGAINST ADMINISTRATION. HE SAID SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, "WHICH IS FRIENDLIER FORUM FOR ADMINISTRATION,, WILL HOLD HEARING SEPT. 26 WITH ACDA DIRECTOR PAUL WARNKE. MARDER SAID STATE DEPARTMENT MADE PUBLIC LETTER FROM HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI AND COMMITTEE'S RANKING REPUBLICAN BROOMFIELD SUPPORTING ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY. IN THEIR LETTER TO VANCE, ZABLOCKI AND BROOMFIELD SAID "IT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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OUR VIEW THAT UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES UNILATERAL POLICY DECLARATION ALONG LINES YOU INDICATED WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, REQUIRING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.

2. CHARLES CORDDRY OF BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT SENATOR SAM NUNN OF GEORGIA CALLED FOR SENATE HEARINGS TO FIND OUT "WHY ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T WANT CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY AT THIS TIME" OF ITS PLAN FOR CONTINUING TO OBSERVE SALT ONE AGREEMENT. JACKSON AIDES, CORDDRY ADDED, SAID HE WAS EXPECTED TO HOLD HEARINGS BEFORE HIS SUBCOMMITTEE REGARDLESS OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. THESE AIDES SAID KEY QUESTION TO BE RAISED WAS WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN TACIT UNDERSTANDING WITH MOSCOW ON ,ROCEDURE WASHINGTON INTENDS TO FOLLOW. CORDDRY SAID "THAT QUESTION IS SURE TO BE PUT TO PAUL C. WARNKE, ADMINISTRATION'S ARMS NEGOTIATOR, AT CLOSED SESSION OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE RESCHEDULED FOR MONDAY. AIDES SAID MR. WARNKE WILL BE ASKED WHAT DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE WITH RUSSIANS BEFORE ADMINISTRATION DECIDED TO ISSUE 'UNILATERAL POLICY DECLARATION' ON ABIDING BY EXPIRING AGREEMENT IF SOVIET UNION SHOWS 'SIMILAR RESTRAINT.'" CORDDRY SAID "ANY SENATE HEARINGS NOW MOST LIKELY WOULD PROBE INTO SUBSTANTIVE CRUISE MISSILE ISSUE AS WELL AS FORM FOR EXTENDING OBSERVANCE OF AGREEMENT BEYOND ITS

EXPIRATION DEADLINE. THIS IS PUBLIC CONTROVERSY ADMINI-

STRATION HOPES TO AVOID AS NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION CONTINUE." CORDDRY SAID VANCE HAD EMPHASIZED THAT AFTER OCT. 3, THERE WOULD BE NO SALT AGREEMENT IN EFFECT PENDING CONCLUSION OF NEW ONE NOW UNDER NEGOTIATION. "ARGUMENT, IN BRIEF, WAS THAT FOR PERIOD OF TIME THERE WOULD BE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT, IN LINE WITH OLD PACT'S TERMS, BUT ONLY IF SOVIET UNION DID LIKEWISE. COUNTERARGUMENT OF SENATOR JACKSON AND HIS ADHERENTS WAS THAT THIS WAS TECHNICALITY AND THAT LIMITATIONS ON AMERICAN ARMED FORCES REQUIRE CON- UNCLASSIFIED

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GRESSIONAL APPROVAL." OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS, HE REPORTED SAID VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS PROBABLY WOULD NEED TO CONTINUE ONLY FOR FEW MONTHS, AT WHICH TIME THEY THOUGHT NEW PACT WOULD HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED.

3. TASKASHI OKA OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, REPORTING FROM LONDON ON MEETING OF 15-NATION NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP, SAID "IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT MAIN AMERICAN CONCERN IS NOT, AS SOME REPORTS HAVE ASSERTED, TO DISCOURAGE ALL FURTHER WORK ON BREEDER REACTORS WHICH USE PLUTONIUM AS THEIR FUEL. RATHER, NSG SOURCES SAID, PURPOSE HAS BEEN TO BUY TIME IN WHICH TECHNOLOGY COULD BE REDESIGNED AND MADE LESS 'PROLIFERABLE.' ONE POSSIBILITY IS TO MAKE FUEL ELEMENTS COMING OUT OF REPROCESSING FACILITY SO RADIOACTIVE THAT THEY WOULD BE AS DANGEROUS TO HANDLE AS DEPLETED FUEL ELEMENTS COMING OUT OF FAST BREEDER REACTOR ON ITS WAY TO REPROCESSING FACILITY. THIS IS TECHNIQUE WHICH HAS BEEN ADVOCATED BY SIR JOHN HILL, CHAIRMAN OF UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY. EXPERIMENTS IN U.S. ARE SAID TO HAVE CONFIRMED FEASIBILITY OF THIS PROCEDURE."

4. HENRY BRADSHER, WRITING IN SEPT. 22 WASHINGTON STAR, SAID ,AMID WIDESPREAD APPREHENSION THAT SOVIET UNION IS EXPLOITING AMERICAN TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES TO INCREASE ITS MILITARY STRENGTH, CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS LAUNCHED EXTENSIVE STUDY OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. BETWEEN 15 AND 20 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ARE WORKING ON PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW MEMORANDUM ORDERED BY NSC. IT WILL EXAMINE WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES INVOLVED IN SELLING SCIENTIFICALLY AND TECHNICALLY ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL GOODS AND PRODUCTION KNOW-HOW TO POTENTIAL ENEMIES." BRADSHER SAID SENATOR JACKSON MADE PUBLIC LETTER HE WROTE TO CARTER JULY 25 CALLING FOR KIND OF REVIEW THAT NSC WAS PLANNING. UNCLASSIFIED

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JACKSON SAID SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS, WHICH HE CHAIRS, HAD FOUND THAT GOVERNMENT WAS UNABLE TO ACCURATELY ASSESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS.

5. WALTER PINCUS OF WASHINGTON POST SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS HAVING PROBLEMS GETTING NATO ALLIES TO SUPPORT

PUBLICLY DECISION TO PRODUCE AND DEPLOY NEUTRON WEAPONS. QUOTING SOURCES, PINCUS SAID NEUTRON WARHEADS HAVE BECOME "CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL ISSUE" IN EUROPE WHERE THEY WOULD BE DEPLOYED AND POSSIBLY USED. PINCUS SAID FIRST CONSULTATION TOOK PLACE AT NATO HEADQUARTERS AND ALLIES WERE ASKED FOR THEIR VIEWS. "WHEN THOSE VIEWS WILL COME SEEMS IN DOUBT," PINCUS REPORTED. HE QUOTED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL AS SAYING "THERE MAY BE CONTINUING SERIES OF MEETINGS UNTIL CONSENSUS IS CONVEYED TO US." DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID PROCESS COULD TAKE ,UNTIL END OF YEAR., DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, ACCORDING TO PINCUS, SAID "TIMELY RESPONSE" WAS SOUGHT. PENTAGON OFFICIAL SAID "THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO PROVIDE IT SOME TIME NEXT WEEK." NSC SPOKESMAN, PINCUS CONTINUED, SAID VIEWS OF ALLIES ARE "EXPECTED IN NEAR FUTURE" THOUGH CONSULTATIONS WILL CONTINUE. NSC OFFICIAL SAID PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON NEUTRON WEAPONS PRODUCTION IS NOT "FIRM.... IT COULD BE WEEKS OR LONGER."

6. GEORGE C. WILSON OF WASHINGTON POST SAID U.S. HAS QUIETLY DECIDED TO BUILD NEW WEAPON THAT COULD DESTROY SOVIET SATELLITES IN SPACE. "U.S. POLICY DECISION REPRESENTS GIANT STEP TOWARD BUILDING WEAPONS FOR DETERMINING AND, IF THAT FAILS, FIGHTING WAR IN SPACE,, WILSON SAID. 1972 ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE TREATY, WILSON RECALLED, U.S. AND SOVIET UNION AGREED NOT TO BUILD WEAPONS THAT WOULD INTERFERE WITH "NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION" -- MEANING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SATELLITES. PENTAGON SPOKESMAN THOMAS ROSS, WHEN ASKED UNCLASSIFIED

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ABOUT NEW SYSTEM, SAID TREATY DID NOT PROHIBIT TESTS, WILSON REPORTED. "HE DECLINED TO CONFIRM OR DENY THAT PENTAGON IS NOW EMBARKED ON AN ANTI-SATELLITE WEAPON SYSTEM." WILSON SAID AIR FORCE HAS AWARDED VOUGHT CORP. OF DALLAS 58.7 MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT TO BUILD SATELLITE KILLER THAT IS AS SIMPLE AS IT IS SECRET. BASICALLY, SATELLITE KILLER "IS HIGH MANEUVERABLE, HEAT-SENSING VEHICLE RESEMBLING TOMATO CAN THAT WOULD RAM AN ENEMY SATELLITE AS BOTH VEHICLES FLY THOUSANDS OF MILES AN HOUR." SATELLITE KILLER WOULD CARRY NO EXPLOSIVES BUT RELY INSTEAD ON HEAD-ON COLLISION TO DESTROY SATELLITE. VOUGHT, ACCORDING TO WILSON, IS EXPECTED TO HAVE BATTLE VERSION OF SATELLITE KILLER READY TO TEST IN SPACE IN ABOUT TWO YEARS. VANCE

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